

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFYING SPECTRAL ARTIFACTS

### Abstract

The invention provides an apparatus and methods for determining whether

5 spectral data obtained from a region of a tissue sample are affected by an artifact.

Artifacts include, for example, lighting artifacts such as glare and shadow and obstruction artifacts, such as blood, a speculum, a smoke tube, or other obstruction. Additionally, the invention provides an apparatus and methods for obtaining redundant spectral data of a

given region of a sample. A redundant set of spectral data is useful where one or more  
10 artifacts affect some but not all sets of the spectral data, such that the redundant set of data is unaffected by the artifact and is representative of the tissue. An embodiment of the invention comprises using representative spectral data in diagnosing a condition of a region of tissue.

15

2317029\_4